

# gay COMMUNITY NEWS

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FOR SEVENTEEN YEARS, THE LESBIAN AND GAY WEEKLY

## Rowdy demos continue in San Francisco

*Daily protests dominate the proceedings at the Sixth International Conference on AIDS*

By Camomile

SAN FRANCISCO — As the Sixth International Conference on AIDS concluded here last week, massive protests continued to dominate the event, culminating in a disruption of the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services' closing remarks to the worldwide gathering of AIDS researchers, experts and policymakers. More than 9,500 people attending the conference were confronted with demonstrations focussing on different issues every day, leading to the arrests of more than 300 activists throughout the week.

During the first two days of the conference, held at the George Moscone Center, activists targeted exclusions of people with AIDS and HIV. A June 19 protest criticized the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) policy that excludes people with HIV and AIDS from entering the country, while a demo on the following day took aim at the conference itself, which activists charge did not provide adequate access to the event for people with AIDS and HIV. (See *GCN*, June 24-30, 1990.)

On Thursday, June 21, 300 people gathered in San Francisco's Civic Center to "expose" the San Francisco AIDS Model — touted worldwide as a brilliantly successful approach to the AIDS epidemic. The city's Mayor Art Agnos was singled out for his attempt to solve the city's AIDS crisis by relying on volunteerism, rather than by funding health care services.

"Volunteers should never have been expected to create a model of health care in this country," charged Eric, a member of ACT UP/San Francisco. "Our volunteers are sick. They're dying. They're burnt out."

In a "Tour of the Ruins," activists marched through the streets from City Hall to the state and federal buildings to the office of the state insurance commissioner, blocking traffic at one intersection with a pass-the-buck demonstration that lasted for nearly 20 minutes — until riot police moved in with paddy wagons. According to ACT UP, 45 AIDS activists and three journalists were arrested.

Friday's demonstration highlighted the failure of the U.S. government and AIDS researchers to address the needs of women with AIDS. Led by women activists, some 800 protesters marched from the city's financial district to the conference site chanting "Health care is a human right, not just for the straight male white" and "NIH [National Institutes of Health], we think you're vile. We want women in clinical trials." When the marchers reached the barricades that prevented them from entering the conference site, a group of 30 women tied themselves together with large red paper chains to dramatize their exclusion.

"The scientists in this conference are not addressing our needs as people with AIDS," charged one of the women protesters. Another speaker pointed out that women of child-bearing age are excluded from clinical treatment trials on the pretext that, if they were to get pregnant, their fetuses might be harmed. "We're treated as 'vectors' of transmission, not as people with AIDS. They're only worried about how we're going

to pass it on to our male sex partners and our children," she said, adding that lesbians with AIDS have been completely ignored throughout the epidemic.

Other protesters denounced the fact that HIV-infected women are often not classified as having AIDS because the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) doesn't include gynecological diseases on its list of AIDS-related opportunistic infections. Consequently, women are undercounted in the epidemic and are not eligible for AIDS health services. Nationally, three-quarters of women with AIDS are people of color, who have little or no access to medical care under any circumstances.

The protest at the conference site was followed by a second march that tied up downtown traffic for several hours. The demonstration ended with a die-in on Market Street, where 147 protesters were arrested.

On Saturday, thousands of people joined together in an HIV/AIDS Unity March that stretched for two long city blocks. Estimates of the demo's size ranged from 5,000 to 20,000. Dozens of organizations participated, including Mobilization Against AIDS, the ARC/AIDS Vigil, the Shanti Project, ACT UP, Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights, Dignity, the Black Coalition on AIDS, the Asian Pacific AIDS Coalition, and the Mission Neighborhood Health Center, an organization made up primarily of Latino people. A group of delegates from the conference, including co-chairs John Ziegler and Paul Volberding, headed the procession, holding a banner that read, "We are all in this together. Action = Life."

Although the march was mostly non-confrontational, at one point a group of about 400 demonstrators, led by ACT UP/Seattle, stormed Nordstrom's department store chanting and blowing whistles. The activists rode the circular escalators to the top of the store's huge atrium, where they hung banners denouncing the department store as a "corporate criminal," and flung leaflets into the crowd of shoppers below. (Despite its display of several panels of the Names Project quilt in its front windows during the conference week, Nordstrom's has won notoriety for its policy of firing employees with HIV.)

The march ended with a rally at which speaker after speaker pledged support for a set of six unity principles, and stressed the importance of doctors, scientists, health care providers, AIDS service workers, activists, and people with AIDS/HIV working together in the fight to end the epidemic. The principles called for, in part, increased funding for health care, wider access to treatments, an end to AIDS/HIV discrimination and the necessity of providing health care for HIV-infected people throughout the world.

The closing session of the conference on Sunday, June 24, provided activists with their final venue. Conference chair Zeigler opened the session by saying that the

Continued on page 11

## WAS THE FATHER OF OUR COUNTRY A QUEEN ?

BRINGING NEW  
MEANING TO THE PHRASE  
"GEORGE WASHINGTON  
SLEPT HERE."



## Louisiana passes strict anti-abortion law

*Roe v. Wade may be on the line following the state legislature's approval of a measure banning abortion except to save the life of the woman*

By Chris Nealon

BATON ROUGE, La. — In a serious blow to reproductive rights activists across the country, the state Senate passed the most restrictive anti-abortion law in the U.S. June 26. The measure, which bans abortions except to save the life of the woman, passed in the Senate 24-15 following a 74-27 vote in favor of the bill in the state House June 14. The law now goes to Louisiana's governor for signature. Both pro- and anti-choice forces say the new legislation provides the most stringent test yet of *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion.

The bill has no exceptions for pregnancies resulting from rape or incest, and carries a penalty of up to 10 years in prison with hard labor for anyone who performs an abortion, as well as a possible fine of up to \$100,000. The law does not establish penalties for women seeking abortions.

The only other anti-abortion legislation that is as restrictive as the Louisiana law is a measure passed in Guam last March. The Guam law includes one exception to a ban on abortion, in cases where the woman's life is threatened or in which there is "grave peril" to her health. The law is currently being challenged in Federal court. (See *GCN*, April 8-14, 1990.)

Kathryn Kolbert, state level coordinator for the Reproductive Freedom Project of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), said that passage of the Louisiana law would effectively be a reenactment of an 1855 anti-abortion measure, "one of the most stringent laws ever."

Democratic Gov. Buddy Roemer, who has repeatedly said that he would veto any anti-abortion legislation that did not include exceptions for rape and incest, reaffirmed his intent to veto the law in a press conference June 27, according to local activists. Legislators have vowed to override a veto, an action that requires a two-thirds vote in both the House and Senate.

Kolbert said she expected that any override would be "close and extremely bitter." And Terri Bartlett, director of Louisiana Planned Parenthood, told *GCN* that she couldn't predict the outcome of an override. "You really move into [gubernatorial] politics," she said.

Bartlett said that support for the bill is extremely strong. Pro-choice lobbyists, she said, ultimately had to rely on Roemer's promise of a veto as much as on the hope that the bill would not pass to begin with. In fact, some abortion rights activists argued for passing the most extreme version of the bill, in order to guarantee a veto. "We could not risk a bill that had amendments on it," said Bartlett.

The battle against the new law was led by a coalition of abortion rights activists, women's organizations, gay groups, and civil rights advocates. Bartlett said she was pleased with the way all the organizations worked together in the face of overwhelming opposition. "Since the coalition was just born in December and January, I think we've done phenomenally well," she said. "We came together on the fact that [abortion] is a personal issue, an issue of privacy." Bartlett added, though, that a veto override would mean a whole new fight, saying that the coalition would "have to get together and completely re-strategize."

Kolbert agreed with Bartlett that the groups working against the law had done well despite being "totally outnumbered." She remarked that Louisiana's extremely conservative political climate was threatening to rights activists of any kind. "It's hard to be public about civil liberties" in Louisiana, she said, because of the "fear of retribution."

Kolbert said that she thought the bill was designed to "present the Supreme Court with a chance to overturn *Roe v. Wade* in a

Continued on page 3



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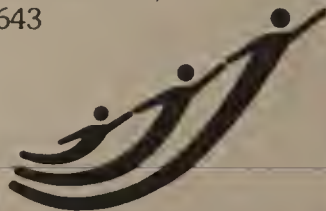
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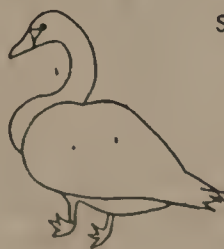
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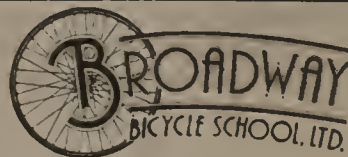
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# S.F. approves gay/lesbian youth program

Some proponents of the high school services plan, known as the Bay Area's Project 10, say the fervor of right-wing opposition may have convinced the school board of the need for the program

By Chris Nealon

SAN FRANCISCO — Despite red tape and the objections of fundamentalist Christians, the school board here approved a system of services for gay and lesbian high school students last week. A coalition of lesbian and gay activists fought religious opposition to the measure, which the board passed 7-0 at a jam-packed meeting June 12. The proposed program, casually referred to as "Project 10" because of its resemblance to a program of that name in Los Angeles, will be only the second of its kind in the country when it begins operating in September.

"I'm extremely happy," said Dr. Virginia Uribe, who founded and currently directs the Los Angeles program. "Project 10 has had its first baby."

Jean Harris, assistant to openly gay city supervisor Harry Britt, told *GCN* she thought the passage of the proposal was an important victory for the Bay Area lesbian and gay community. "It's the first time we've really gone back to the school board and pushed our program," said Harris. She added that some school administrators had initially been unwilling to support a Project 10-style measure, but that members of the school board were "overwhelmed by the community involvement" in support of the program.

"Administrators are fraidy-cats," said Uribe. "The fear is that parents are going to descend on them and claim 'recruitment.'" A traditional right-wing objection to pro-gay proposals, she said, is that they serve to "recruit" students into being gay.

San Francisco Superintendent of Schools Ramon Cortines himself issued such a statement in May. According to *The Sentinel*, a San Francisco-based gay newspaper, Cortines claimed that a Bay Area Project 10 would "entice" young people with homosexuality. Although Cortines has since apologized for the remark, calling his choice of words "unfortunate," it sparked outrage in the gay community and galvanized support for the program.

"ACT UP was terrific, especially after the 'enticing' remark," said Tom Ammiano, a member of the Bay Area Network of Gay and Lesbian Educators (BANGLE). Ammiano told *GCN* that ACT UP was one of many lesbian and gay groups that got involved in fighting anti-Project 10 activity.

Barbara Blinick, another member of BANGLE, said she thought far-right opposition to the proposal actually helped get it approved. Fundamentalists "basically sold the program for us," she said. "It was just ugly. [But] they showed board members the degree of rabidity in their community."

## Pushing for the best program

Now that the most extreme opposition to Project 10 has been defeated, activists are determined that the program not fall victim to bureaucratic red tape. The passage of the proposal "was a victory, but we're not sure how it's going to look," Blinick told *GCN*. As it stands, she said, the proposal calls for a lesbian and gay student services center with a phone assistance line. The center's activities will be organized by a part-time coordinator, who will run sensitivity workshops for faculty, administration, and students, work with parents on an advisory committee on family life, and provide counseling for

lesbian and gay students.

"I'm impressed with the broadness of the proposal," said Blinick, "but I'm discouraged about the staff position being part-time." She said it was not clear how much a single part-time worker could accomplish.

"It's not nearly enough," replied Uribe, who has staffed the Los Angeles Project 10 alone on a part-time basis since its inception in 1984. Uribe added that she thought there was room for negotiation about the specifics of the program, saying she was sure "there will be refinement."

Another debate surrounds the way that Project 10 should be categorized for funding. Leland Yee, a member of the school board, told *GCN* that the current proposal places gay and lesbian services under "health services" instead of "student services" and that Project 10 will apply for funds from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta under that classification.

"It's condescending and stereotyping to place [Project 10] under 'health,'" said Yee. "It's a way of continuing to associate gay and lesbian people with AIDS."

Yee said that although he had proposed a Project 10 that called for a full-time staff person and that would have received money under "student services," the board eventually settled on the current program as a "compromise resolution."

Ammiano agreed with Blinick and Yee that the approved proposal has problems. Calling it "Project 10 lite," he said that a part-time staff person would not be enough for the school district. Ammiano also objected to the probable use of "health" funding to finance the program, saying that "there wasn't the sophistication [on the board] to distinguish between [having] HIV and being gay."

Beverly Bradley, supervisor of the school system's health program, returned *GCN*'s calls to Cortines and said that Project 10 had been placed in the "health" category because the district's budget is being cut and because "health" is "where the money is." She added that she did not think a "health" classification was inappropriate, remarking that gay and lesbian students are at a higher-than-average risk for drug and alcohol problems.

Local activists say they will push in any case for a fuller system of services. "I'm sure we'll get more," said Ammiano, who is running for a position on the school board in the fall. Yee added that he thought a good deal of work was left to be done by gay and pro-gay activists. "The [lesbian and gay] community has, to some extent, won," he said. "But it's still an uphill battle."

Gay students were less ambivalent about the passage of Project 10. "It's great," said Olga Texidor, who recently graduated from high school in the district. "It's about time." Texidor told *GCN* that it had been "real lonely" being a lesbian while she was in high school. She said, however, that "it could have been worse," saying she faced harassment "but no violence."

Texidor added that although she thought many young people would still be afraid to make use of the program, it would make all the difference "for those that use it, take that first step."

□ filed from Boston

(NARAL) said June 27, "Yesterday, Louisiana's legislators took a dangerous step towards sending all American women to the back alleys for health care."

In a related decision, the Court ruled June 25 that states may require women under the age of 18 to notify both parents before seeking an abortion. The court voted 5-4 in *Hodgson v. Minnesota* to uphold the constitutionality of requiring parental consent, with the condition that state law must offer the alternative of a judicial hearing to young women who do not want to inform their parents.

Meanwhile, pro-choice activists in Louisiana face the beginning of a long-term battle with state politicians. "The important thing is to lay a foundation of education for the Louisiana legislature," said Bartlett. "The educational process...has just begun."

□ filed from Boston

# Celebrating Pride from coast to coast

San Francisco draws half a million and New York commemorates the 21st anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in the country's two largest Pride gatherings



LEE SNIDER/PHOTO IMAGES

NEW YORK — Almost half a million marchers and spectators took part in New York City's 21st annual Gay and Lesbian Pride March, June 24. The lesbian Sirens Motorcycle Club led off the march which wound along the Lavender Line painted down the center of Fifth Avenue. Bringing up the rear of this first section were the march's Grand Marshals, the Lesbian Herstory Archives collective and a legally married gay male couple from Denmark. Hundreds of groups followed behind; political, educational, AIDS-related, community services, club-kid, musical and athletic groups were all greeted with cheers and applause.

At 2:30, the entire march halted for a moment of silence. Approximately 100,000 marchers held pink "Ribbons of Remembrance" aloft in memory of those who have died of AIDS. Sold by Heritage of Pride (HOP), which organized the event, the ribbons featured a space upon which participants could write the name of a person who died of AIDS. HOP collected the ribbons to give to New York City Health Commissioner Dr. Woodrow A. Myers, Jr. to demonstrate the need for increased funding of AIDS research, education, and services for PWAs.

The day was capped off by the Christopher Street Fair and, once night had fallen, Pride participants were treated to the first gay and lesbian fireworks display to be set to music, which featured such tunes as "I Am What I Am," "I Will Survive" and "We Are Family."

□ Deborah Schwartz



JANA BIRCHUM

SAN FRANCISCO — The world's largest annual lesbian and gay Pride celebration dominated the downtown streets of the City by the Bay June 24, as a dazzling array of dykes, fags, homos, bis, het supporters and various other queers marched, rolled and sashayed in front of packed sidewalks full of enthusiastic onlookers. The huge parade and rally, attended by between a quarter and a half a million people — depending on who you're talking to — culminated a week of queer visibility and cultural events, and coincided with the closing of the Sixth International Conference on AIDS. (See story, p. 1.)

The parade included most of the traditional Pride participants — a massive contingent of wildly-clad dykes on bikes leading off, huge campy bar floats with semi-nude riders gyrating to canned dance music, and various straight and gay politicians waving from shiny convertibles. Longtime contingents like the marching band, AIDS service organizations, and Radical Faeries were joined by newer groups like the Dykes From Hell (a loose-knit group of radical lesbians) and ACT UP.

This year's parade also included representatives of groups that gathered in San Francisco during pride week. Chapters of Black and White Men Together and Men of All Colors Together from around the country (in town for their annual convention) marched in the large segment at the beginning of the parade featuring groups for lesbians and gay men of color. Various ACT UP chapters (who came to join protests at the AIDS conference) chanted their way towards San Francisco's Civic Center, as did a large contingent of bisexuals who had gathered for their first national meeting in the days preceding the parade.

After the parade, the throngs flooded into the Civic Center plaza, where speeches, smooches, cruising, and other edifying activities went on for hours. This reporter's favorite slogan was the one mounted on the outside of the SPCA truck — it read: "Thank you for not breeding."

□ Jennie McKnight

# Abortion

Continued from page 1

more direct way than ever before." Indeed, those in favor of the new law have also depicted it as a vehicle for challenging *Roe v. Wade*. In the wake of *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services*, a 1989 Supreme Court ruling that granted states the right to severely restrict abortions, sweeping anti-abortion bills have been introduced in Minnesota, Alabama, and Utah in the past year. Pro-choice activists scored a recent victory in Idaho when Gov. Cecil D. Andrus vetoed legislation similar to the Louisiana bill March 30.

Commenting on the impact of the passage of the Louisiana law across the country, the National Abortion Rights Action League



# COMMUNITY VOICES

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All GCN positions require commitments to lesbian/gay liberation, feminism, anti-racism, an awareness of class issues, and a commitment to collective decision-making.

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**To apply:** Please send resume and cover letter to: GCN Jobs, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

**Questions??:** Feel free to call 617-426-4469. Ask for the person currently holding the position you are interested in applying for.

### GCN Editorial Guidelines

The "Community Voices" and "Speaking Out" sections in GCN are parts of our efforts to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings and comments to us, and to respond to ideas expressed within our pages. We welcome all contributions except personal attacks. Copies of letters and "Speaking Out" contributions sent elsewhere are printed on a space available basis only. GCN reserves the right to edit letters and "Speaking Out" contributions for length and clarity, in consultation with the author. The opinions expressed are those of the author and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN staff or membership.

All letter and "Speaking Out" contributions must be TYPED and DOUBLE-SPACED. Letters can be NO LONGER THAN TWO PAGES. Speaking Out" contributions can be NO LONGER THAN FOUR PAGES and require a short (one to two sentence) biographical note about the author for inclusion at the end of the article.

Because GCN wishes to encourage dialogue and a diverse representation of perspectives on the letters pages, printing of "Speaking Out" contributions received from authors who have had other "Speaking Outs" appear in GCN recently may be postponed temporarily.

For editing purposes, it is helpful to be able to contact you easily -- please enclose your name, address, and daytime phone number with your letter or article. Thanks.

Send to: Community Voices/Speaking Out, GCN, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

The opinions expressed in "Speaking Out" contributions are those of the author and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN staff, Board or membership.

### Reporting harassment

Dear GCN:

There seems to be a great deal of confusion in the gay community about whether or not to report verbal harassment. The Fenway Victim Recovery Program would like information regarding harassment in any form. Please call them at 617-267-0900.

Yours sincerely,  
Owen W. Shows  
Jamaica Plain, Mass.

## On being 'politically correct' soldiers and lawyers

Dear GCN:

My graduating law student friend said to me the other day, "Some of us don't approve of your being in the Army." I've been hearing this statement, and variations of it, for 12 years now. Those who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones. I am not "better" as a person because I am patriotic, and I am not better because I rationalize my role in the Army Medical Service Corps as "different," where, for example, our motto is: "To Conserve the Fighting Strength."

To my law student friend, and many like her, I would like to respond. The reality is, people are killed and injured when they are in combat, whether or not the combat itself is palatable to you personally. Though we may not agree with America's political wars and police actions, as by the way I don't, soldiers (female/male, gay/straight, Black/white) must participate in the actions unless they are ordered to do acts which violate treaty-recognized human rights. That's what the Geneva Convention was all about. Treaty signers don't condone war-related violations of this NATO-majority treaty. Remember international law? You will be swearing soon to uphold the laws, Constitution and treaties of the United States.

So, judged by you, my law student friend, who sees herself as so "politically correct," I say our system is flawed, but that didn't stop you from wanting to become a spokesperson for people-oppressive federal and state law and legal systems either. Aren't all lawyers emissaries of the law? When you raise your hand to take your oath to preserve our Constitution, and uphold the laws of our land, keep in mind that it was that very same Constitution that assigned value to Black persons as "three-fifths" of white persons so that the South wouldn't monopolize the House of Representatives. It is also the document responsible for the creation of the U.S. Armed Services that my membership in you find so offensive. Remember the Civil War was a North-South division over slavery that tore the nation apart, and yet it resulted in final and long-awaited Black emancipation. The soldier lives lost were needless then, and now, in retrospect; but then, sometimes it takes a revolution to change things that need to be changed. Our communities' ACT UP recognizes this truism by forming into a group of justice-minded gay and lesbian "citizen-soldiers."

This Constitution you'll be swearing to uphold has also proven resistant to the Equal Rights Amendment (women's that is, as Black citizens were fully franchised by the Fifteenth Amendment in 1870). So it isn't perfect, yet. And maybe in the next century when we're battling for the constitutional amendment protecting gays and lesbians you'll still be faithful to it. I hope so.

Another thing you might not know is that the oath you take is almost the mirror image of the one that I took when I was enlisted in the Army 12 years ago. Yours will say "support," mine says: "I affirm that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States...that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same...." I don't see my role as practicing to kill, but practicing to protect. I don't advocate war. My primary purpose is to protect myself, my troops, and others in defense of our Constitution. You are one of the "others," as are all national citizens, including "pro-lifers" and Klu Klux Klansmen. These people hold political views that you and I don't necessarily support, and yet our respective professions dictate: their Constitutional rights of free speech and association you must protect as an attorney, just as I must protect them from real and potential "foreign or domestic attackers." Sometimes we make decisions for what we believe is the "greater good," even if it hurts.

What I am saying is this: I don't see you as my personal oppressor because of your chosen profession, just as I don't like being seen as your oppressor because I'm in one of our Armed Services. I am a lesbian, just like you, and you and I see nothing wrong with ourselves or one another as lesbians. Unfortunately, many in society, including our law-makers, oppress us. They prevent me from being "out" while I stand in uniform as they will probably prevent you from being "out" as my legal advocate in legal action against me because I am homosexual. It would be nice if we all lived in a world that recognized each of us as the independent and yet inter-dependent persons that we are, worthy of respect. When you paint all of us

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of ten, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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# Toward gay freedom in South Africa

By Rebecca Gordon and Jan Adams

*A note from the authors: Hello folks. We're here in South Africa in Cape Town doing three months of computer technical support for a newspaper named SOUTH, which is part of the Mass Democratic Movement. We fell into this extraordinary opportunity through the Berkeley-based voluntary development organization TECNICA, which provides technical assistance to liberation struggles in Nicaragua and South Africa. To their credit, neither TECNICA nor SOUTH had any objection to having a couple of dykes on their first team to South Africa. Through the kindness of one of the reporters here we found ourselves at the Albie Sachs/OLGA press conference, described in the following article, and recorded it.*

Albie Sachs is the African National Congress' expert on constitutional guidelines. The second week of May, 1990 he was able to return to his native Cape Town, after 24 years of forced exile. Among many other meetings during his homecoming visit, he spent several hours with members of the Organization of Lesbian and Gay Activists (OLGA) discussing what they might seek to get included in a new constitution.

African National Congress (ANC) supporters hope that a completely rewritten constitution will emerge from the ongoing process of negotiations with the white apartheid regime. The ANC has called for the election of a Constituent Assembly to draw up South Africa's new constitution. Unlike any election in South Africa's history, this one would be conducted on the principle of one person, one vote. In preparation for such an assembly, the ANC says it is consulting with a broad range of organizations, in the hope of making the process as inclusive and democratic as possible. Unlike any such process in the world's history, this one will include consultation with lesbian and gay organizations.

What follows is a direct transcription of Sachs' remarks made at a press conference held jointly with OLGA on May 14, 1990:

"I'm a member of the Constitutional Committee of the ANC. This meeting with the Organization of Lesbian and Gay Activists (OLGA) was not a formal meeting, but it is part and parcel of the general process of consultation that we encourage. We want everybody to contribute towards developing the concept of constitutional rights in South Africa. Anybody who feels that their rights might be affected one way or another should feel free to make their proposals about what they'd like to see in the constitution.

"The question of homosexuality has never

been treated in an open and honest way in South Africa. The first thing that has to be done is get the question out in the open and for persons who stand to be most affected by any future dispensation to say themselves what they would like to see. This is part of a very extensive process of consultation and debate, based on the principle that people must write their own constitution.

"We don't see the constitution as being the product of a few enlightened (or unenlightened!) lawyers. People must make their own input. Somebody said that a constitution is the autobiography of a nation. Everybody is part of the nation. Everybody has a right to contribute.

"In the case of homosexuality in South Africa, there is a special pertinence in this phase where we are overcoming apartheid. The essence of apartheid was that it tried to tell people who they were, how they should behave, what their rights were. The essence of democracy is that people should be free to be who they are. Any full democracy in South Africa, in my view, should be such as to encourage everybody to be who they are.

"What emerges in the final constitution depends on all sorts of factors, but democracy also requires that there be full consultation with everybody whose rights stand to be affected, and that is why I am here and why I was very happy to accept the invitation [from OLGA].

"Although the question of homosexual rights is acutely and primarily a question for homosexuals, it is a question for everybody; and heterosexuals also have a right and duty to be involved in the question.

"The constitutional guidelines in general have been submitted to the public for comment. In London, some people from the gay community there got together with me to find out the ANC's position, and I said our position is that we want to hear from the gay and lesbian community themselves what they want and what they think their rights should be.

"Then when I was coming here, I was invited to attend this meeting. We already know the people in OLGA -- they've been very active in general in the anti-apartheid struggle, they have standing and prestige in the movement, and there is a strong feeling they shouldn't be in any way discriminated against because of their sexual preference. But this goes a little beyond that -- it is part of people in general defining what their own rights should be.

"Although our connection with OLGA is

very strong because they have been involved in the democratic struggle, [the request for comment on the constitution] is not restricted only to OLGA. There are other groups of South African homosexuals who we would hope would also comment. These are what I would refer to as the "straight gays." Though there are some issues that apply to homosexuals who are active in the anti-apartheid movement, there are some issues that apply whether homosexuals are politically active or reactionary or whatever.

"There is too much fear in South Africa in general. We want people to be free, to feel free. This is one more area, in my own view, where there appears to be oppression. We are against oppression and we want everybody to feel they are part of the nation, they are part of the new South Africa, as part of a general program against discrimination, against marginalizing people, against this idea of telling people who they are and what they are."

OLGA intends to attempt to join with other gay groups to draft a Charter of Lesbian and Gay Rights, which they hope to have appended to the new constitution along with other Charters, such as those for women and workers.

OLGA was formed in October 1987 by a group of Cape Town lesbian and gay activists in order to provide a specifically lesbian and gay voice within the liberation movement. They work for a "united, non-racial, non-sexist and democratic South Africa, to situate the lesbian and gay struggle within the context of the total liberation struggle, to raise the visibility of lesbians and gays working within the struggle, and to support them, and to maintain links with the international lesbian and gay movement."

OLGA has 35-40 paid members and about 120 supporters in Cape Town. It is a member of the United Democratic Front, which until the ANC was unbanned in February, was the main mass liberation organization in the country. OLGA also has a newsletter, it holds support meetings for the membership, and it takes part in AIDS work.

Homophobia is a strong enough force even within the relatively liberal context of Cape Town that OLGA press spokespeople asked that their names not be reported and no photos be taken of them.

*OLGA can be reached at P.O. Box 7315, Roggebaai 8012, Cape Town, South Africa.*

(whatever that "us" might be) with one brush you do yourself, and us all, a disservice. Before you cast that stone at my glass house take a look at your own, and then perhaps instead of casting it, sister, you will add it to our common foundation instead.

Name Withheld Upon Request

## Longtime Companion: fostering myths

Dear GCN:

As a gay male of color with a conscience, I would like to openly and publicly state that I am boycotting the movie *Longtime Companion* and am encouraging others who are committed to inclusivity in our community to do the same. I am offended and outraged that in their claim to depict the history of the AIDS epidemic in the male community, the movie ignored the monstrous toll the epidemic has taken on the gay men of color community. In the memory of my thousands of brothers who have died of AIDS, including Sylvester, Joe Beam, Alvin Ailey, Willie Smith, several close friends and countless others, I feel the need to demand that we stop being the invisible minority in this community given all of the invaluable contributions many of us (as well as our sisters) have made over the years.

I find it unfortunate that this movie is such a blatant disregard to people of color. That the only two characters of color are a servant and a straight drug addict are further insulting. Need we again be reminded that at the onset of this disease, it was labelled a "white" gay male disease and most of us were misled to believe we were immune? Need we again be reminded that many AIDS organizations were founded with the gay white male in mind exclusively? Need I again be reminded of the friends that I have lost; three under the age of 24, who I believe might be alive today had such myths not been allowed to fester in our community for so long?

I realize that the creators of *Longtime Companion* can claim that it isn't their responsibility to portray anything other than the gay white male perspective. However, it is obvious that this film is being billed as a representation of the gay community as a whole. If our perspective as gays of color is overlooked in gay art and literature then I see no need in us attending or donating our hard-earned dollars where we are not wanted or represented. Heaven forbid if another young, naive brother should view this film and leave it feeling immune to AIDS since he couldn't relate to any of the characters.

In the words of ACT-UP, "SILENCE = DEATH." May I suggest the next time the people involved in this film try to represent the community again for a profit, they consult the genius of Harvey Fierstein. In a sensitive gesture of brotherhood, Harvey added an African-American male as his best friend in the movie version of *Torch Song Trilogy*. What Harvey did was insightful and heroic. What the makers of *Longtime Companion* did was ignorant and irresponsible.

Roger M. Carter  
Boston, Mass.

## Poet wants help coming out

Dear GCN:

I'm having a very hard time finding a place to live. I just don't know what to do anymore. I have so much to offer anyone who would just give me half a chance to prove myself. Can you imagine what it's like to know that if you could find a place to live, you could get out of a prison you'd been in for 13 years? I'll do anything to get out of this hellhole. I'm well-educated, a published poet, and I just want to be free. Is that asking too much?

Well, thanks for letting me cry on your collective shoulder,

Sincerely,  
Terry Drake  
Box 28 - 14162  
Pendleton, IN 46064

## No testing by request

Dear GCN:

I am a gay prisoner in Ohio's worst penitentiary, the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility, or "Lunyville". After reading your last edition and seeing the ad about AIDS testing, I sent in a request to get myself checked out. Then I relaxed and prepared myself for the ridicule I knew would accompany me on the nearly two hour trip to the prison health center.

After I finally was prepared to be treated like the plague or the Blob; I get this notice back from the Medical Director that says only "We don't test by request."

Now doesn't that bite your buns! After all, the reason that one is supposed to know about AIDS is to stop it from killing you. You know, outside of sexual contact I must have made a lot of people bleed in fights (defending myself, of course!) Now in the next two years I may be out on the streets and won't even know if I am HIV positive and may have less than a few years to enjoy my life.

Maybe some of you out in the "free world" will ask your local AIDS service organization to put some energy into helping out prisoners in your area to get the kind of health care everybody should have, in particular around AIDS, which is more easily spread among prisoners who are largely uneducated about AIDS, are often drug users without a supply of clean needles, and are more likely to be having unsafe sex.

Thank you for your concern,

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Special thanks: Six donors who made pace-setting contributions had enough faith in our abilities to help us at the beginning and support our efforts every step of the way. Many of our Sustainers made donations above and beyond the \$120+/year each Sustainer already contributes. GCN readers responded to our appeal, contributing from \$5 to \$100 and more to keep up the momentum. We're especially grateful for the support shown us by the Funding Exchange and the Grass Roots Gay Rights Fund. Finally, this campaign would not have been possible without the hard work of staff, volunteers and the Board of Directors.

Did you want to make a donation, but never quite got around to it? There's lots more computer equipment we'd like to purchase, and your tax-deductible donation is always welcome. Just send your check payable to GCN to: GCN Desktop Publishing Campaign 1990, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, Mass. 02116.

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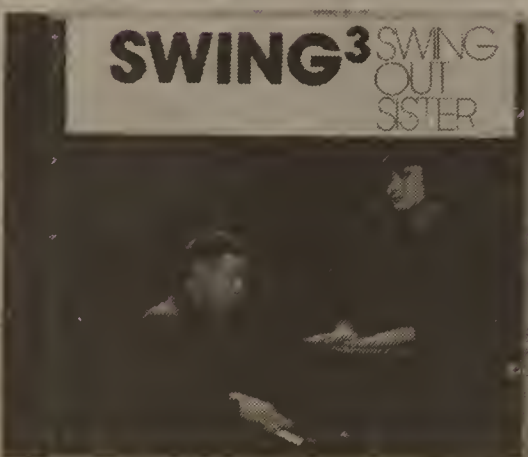
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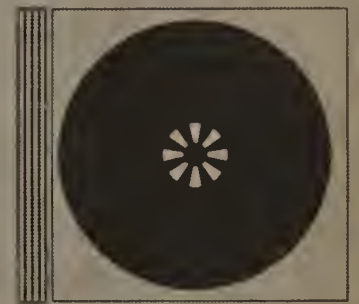


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'Daddy, I cannot tell a lie'

## Was the father of our country a queen?

*Bringing new meaning to the phrase "George Washington  
slept here"*

By Charley Shively

**A**mong the Revolutionary War heroes of July 4th none appears straighter to us now than George Washington. However, his straightness (like so much of compulsory heterosexuality) forms only an illusion. What you learned in grade school — that George Washington chopped down a cherry tree and then confessed, "Father, I cannot tell a lie" — is a lie. And what your teacher didn't tell you — that "Washington was a homosexual" — is true.

Evidence of Washington's love of men has been published before. In 1964 Noel I. Garde included George Washington in *Jonathan to Gide, The Homosexual in History*. The author's vision came out of the '60s sexual liberation which led to Stonewall. As a source *Jonathan to Gide* cites J.V. Nash, *Homosexuality in the Lives of the Great*, Little Blue Book No. 1564, published in Girard, Kansas, during the '30s by radical populists. The publication of *Homosexuality in the Lives of the Great*, like the original *Wizard of Oz* (published during the Depression of 1893), attacked the sacred standards of the time. In Kansas — somewhere over the rainbow — they were fighting against the heterosexual standard as well as the gold standard.

Today the United States Army is so militantly anti-gay that many cannot imagine that the man "first in war, first in peace, first in the hearts of his countrymen" loved other men. But military men before Washington actively pursued men, and in the 18th century, there were literally armies of lovers. In 1759 Washington recognized his own gay heritage by ordering busts of six famous generals: Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar (who was hailed in the streets of Rome with cries of "Regina! Regina!"), Charles XII of Sweden, Frederick the Great of Prussia, Prince Eugene of Savoy and the Duke of Marlborough (Winston Churchill's ancestor). Major General Frank M. Richardson includes all these generals in his study *Mars Without Venus, A Study of Some Homosexual Generals* (1981). Known as "Mme. l'Ancienne," Prince Eugene, for instance, "belonged to a small effeminate set that included such unabashed perverts as the young Abbe de Choisy, who was invariably dressed as a girl, except when he wore the lavish earrings and make-up of a mature woman."

Recent televised versions of Washington's life have transformed him into a lady's man. While he loved the company of women, he never favored them sexually. His father died early and his mother kept him in hand as a young boy and prevented his going away to England or even to William & Mary for schooling. She prohibited his joining the navy. Washington's tastes in women ran to mothers and married women. Much has been made of his attachment to Mrs. Sally Fairfax, who taught him about plays, art, current music and gossip. Like many gay men, he turned to womanly culture but that made him neither a woman nor a sexual partner of them. Martha Curtis provided him a perfect consort/cover. A very wealthy widow with two children, she was 26 when she married George, and the couple never had any children.

Sensitive and drawn to women's wit, Washington was also drawn to military men. He loved uniforms and was particularly

keen on his own appearance. He totally adored his older brother Lawrence, Virginia's Adjutant General, who died in his arms. George then turned to older men such as his brother's patron Lord Fairfax and General Braddock for guidance and affection. He loved sleeping in the field with the men on long marches during the 18th century colonial wars. Washington himself was quite a hunk. "I have sometimes thought him," a nephew wrote of his uncle, "decidedly the handsomest man I ever saw; and when in a lively mood, so fully of pleasantry, so agreeable to all with whom he was associated, that I could hardly realize that he was the same Washington whose dignity awed all who approached him."

During the American Revolution, Washington gathered a very gay group of staff officers. The General's relations with a handsome West Indian youth, Alexander Hamilton, have led some historians to speculate that the boy was Washington's illegitimate son. The two men had passionate lovers' quarrels. After one of these battles, Hamilton confided to another friend that after the war he could "say many things" about the old man's character. Letters written to John Laurens when Alexander Hamilton was away on a mission contain more than common rhetorical phrases such as "your obedient servant." "Cold in my professions, warm in friendships, I wish my Dear Laurens," Hamilton wrote in April, 1779, "it might be in my power, by action rather than words, to convince you that I love you." And in September, he wrote "like a jealous lover, when I thought you slighted my caresses, my affection was alarmed and my vanity piqued." (Johnathan Katz, *Gay American History*, 453.) Hamilton writes about his "size," intercourse, and *jeu de folie*, a playful sexual term. Hamilton read all these letters to his commander.

The homintern (international homosexual conspiracy) was very lively in the 18th century. For his quartermaster, Washington chose Frederick William Von Steuben, who communicated with the commander through French-speaking Hamilton and Laurens. Steuben himself had served Frederick the Great and his brother Prince Henry in Prussia; both generals were quite openly lovers of men. Steuben claimed the closest intimacies with both; his stories of being a baron and being so close to the royal family — like so many queen stories — have a kernel of truth and a bushel of elaboration. But Steuben's companion, who wrote his first biography in 1859, describes the general who brought Steuben out as a person "of debauchery and profligacy." And there were stories that Steuben had to flee Germany because of his being "accused of having taken familiarities with young boys."

Steuben taught the American boys discipline (he spoke only German and French at the time) and took two boys from the United States Army for his lifelong lovers. Later, to mark their love for each other, William North and Frederick Steuben carved their initials together on a tree at their rural retreat. The general called his American boys *sans culottes* (without breeches, the tight pants Washington always

Continued on page 11



# Sex as salvation

One of Pedro Almodovar's earliest films, *Labyrinth of Passion* almost washes away the bitter aftertaste left by his latest



Sexilia (Cecilia Roth, l) and Riza (Imanol Arias) in Almodovar's 'Labyrinth of Passion'.

**Labyrinth of Passion.** Written and directed by Pedro Almodovar. With Cecilia Roth, Imanol Arias, Helga Line, Marta Fernandez-Muro, Antonio Banderas, Agustin Almodovar. Running time 100 minutes. At Coolidge Corner Theater, Brookline and various cities nationally.

By Michael Bronski

Towards the end of *Labyrinth of Passion*, Pedro Almodovar's 1982 psychological sex farce just being released now, Sexilia (Cecilia Roth) — a punk rock star who has a thing about sex and only going out at night — has a flashback to a childhood incident involving many of the film's other characters that completely explains a variety of her odd behaviors. After nearly an hour of frantic, hyper camera work and editing, Almodovar slows down to a dreamy pace and lets his crackpot, pseudo-Freudian pop-junk fantasy unfold in all of its loony delight.

*Labyrinth of Passion* is one of Almodovar's earliest films and it has the raw anarchistic feeling that fuels his later releases. He seems unafraid to try almost anything to show how inside-out his world view really is, and while a shit joke is only half-funny, and a daughter-father sexual relationship may cross the border to unacceptability to some, most of the hellzapoppin' humor here really works. While it is closer to the forthright loopiness of *Dark Habits* or *Law of Desire* rather than the more elegantly structured *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*, the fractured-fairy-tale quality of *Labyrinth of Passion* is both consistently startling and funny.

By any typical standard of judgment this should not be. The film is so fruity, so off-kilter that it should not even work as the parody of the sleek '60s spy-adventure movies it seems to be emulating — but it is Almodovar's unfailing love of his characters and their maladjusted idiosyncracies that keep the film not only watchable, but logical and emotionally palpable.

The one time that this generous, artistic quirk fails Almodovar is in the recently released and still-screening *Tie Me Up! Tie Me Down!*. Here he seems to have disdain for the women and men caught in their erotic maelstroms. Almodovar's quirky mixture of sex and power, violence and lust (which worked to great political and emotional effect in *Dark Habits* and *Matador*) feels misogynistic and ugly, exploitative to no effect. In fact, *Tie Me Up! Tie Me Down* leaves such a bitter aftertaste that it is nice to have *Labyrinth of Passion* follow it so closely as a palate cleanser. The main difference between the two films is that the eroticism of *Labyrinth*'s characters is their saving grace, in *Tie Me Up!* it is their downfall. Almodovar is clearly more interested in and more comfortable with sex as salvation.

*Labyrinth of Passion* has an urgent feel to it, as though Almodovar felt that it might have been his only film and he wanted to put everything into it. The film spins out of control — the weird, wired plot is the only thing that keeps it strung together — but it is ultimately satisfying. The final pay-off comes not from the action or characters — both are really cartoons — but rather the filmmaker's sense of fun at discovering the quirky emotional frisson between the two. He shows us that in the world according to Almodovar, what seems off-the-wall is, many times right-on-the-mark. □

## LABYRINTH OF PASSION

A FILM BY ALMODOVAR

This sudden switch in tone and feeling epitomizes the split world of *Labyrinth of Passion* (as well as other Almodovar films): he is as interested in attempting to discover the warped inner lives of his characters as he is in explicating and describing the weird world that both supports and encourages their odd behaviors. From the dysfunctional family in 1983's *What Have I Done to Deserve This?* to the star-crossed and star-struck lovers of this year's *Tie Me Up! Tie Me Down!*, Almodovar's people spend most of their time and energy attempting to make sense of their lives and emotions in a world that, rather than contradict their craziness, actually compliments it.

And the world of *Labyrinth of Passion* is certainly crazy. The film opens with a breezy montage of Sexilia and Riza Niro (Imanol Arias) cruising Madrid's streets. Both spend their time crotch-watching — Almodovar lingers on tight-fitting jeans in a funny parody of Jordache commercials — until they meet a number of bed partners.

This leisurely beginning quickly ends when we discover that Riza is the son of the deposed heir to the King of Tyran whose ex-stepmother, Toraya (Helga Line), is attempting to regain her fertility by going to a famous gynecologist (who happens to be Sexilia's father) so that she can have a child by Riza whom she cannot seem to locate because, it turns out, he is in disguise. Of course, this is fortunate since he is also being pursued by Tyranian radicals — one of whom he has just tricked with quite by accident — who want to kidnap him to regain the royal fortune. Meanwhile, at least 15 other major characters, many of whom are in punk rock bands (including Almodovar himself in low-glitter drag), flit in and out of the eight or nine important story lines. By the end, all of this sorts itself out with the help of cosmetic surgery and the revelatory flashback, and everyone finally gets what she or he desires, if not deserves.

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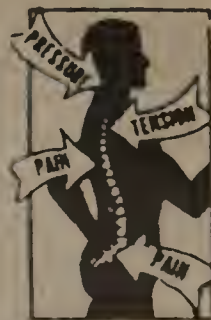
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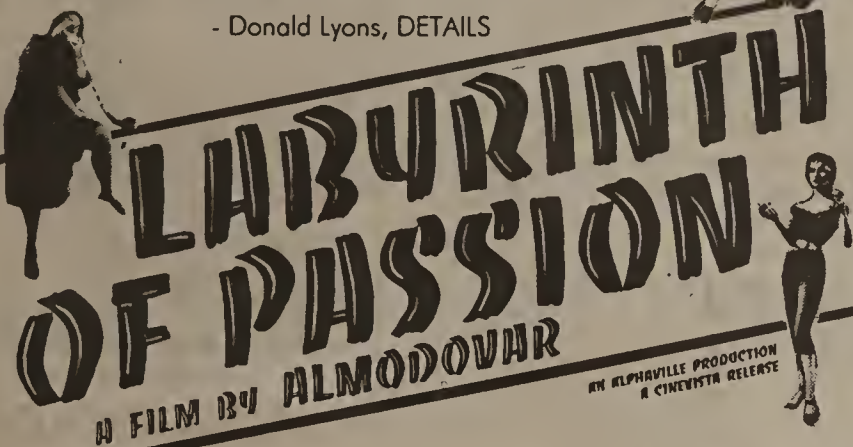
"LABYRINTH OF PASSION: A lively 1982 farce by Pedro Almodovar, just released here. The plot is indescribable, involving a smorgasbord of obsessed and outrageous folk dashing around Madrid in search of such things as sperm from the imperial family of Iran. A terrorist who works by smell (Antonio Banderas); a desperate empress; a nympho punk rockette; a healer laundress; an incestuous gynecologist - all collide crazily in the hunt for happiness.

Overcrowded and noisy as a rush-hour subway, the story carries most of its passengers to their goals. Its main theme and gimmick is metamorphosis. Anybody can change into anything they want in this Ovidian comedy; a fan becomes her idolized star; a nympho goes monogamous and a gay straight; impotence is cured by incest.

Taboos are dissolved by laughter; childhood traumas that fixed characters are cured and characters loosened by a sort of dream-rerun of the traumatic scene. All society's fixating dogmas are mocked by eros, which reshapes people like Play-Doh.

It's a mark of the earliness of the work that society, the polis, offers too little resistance to the play of eros; "Women on the Verge" is tougher in this regard. But "Labyrinth" is the joyful work of a master filmmaker who's made the city of Madrid a new Forest of Arden, the playpen of the Western world."

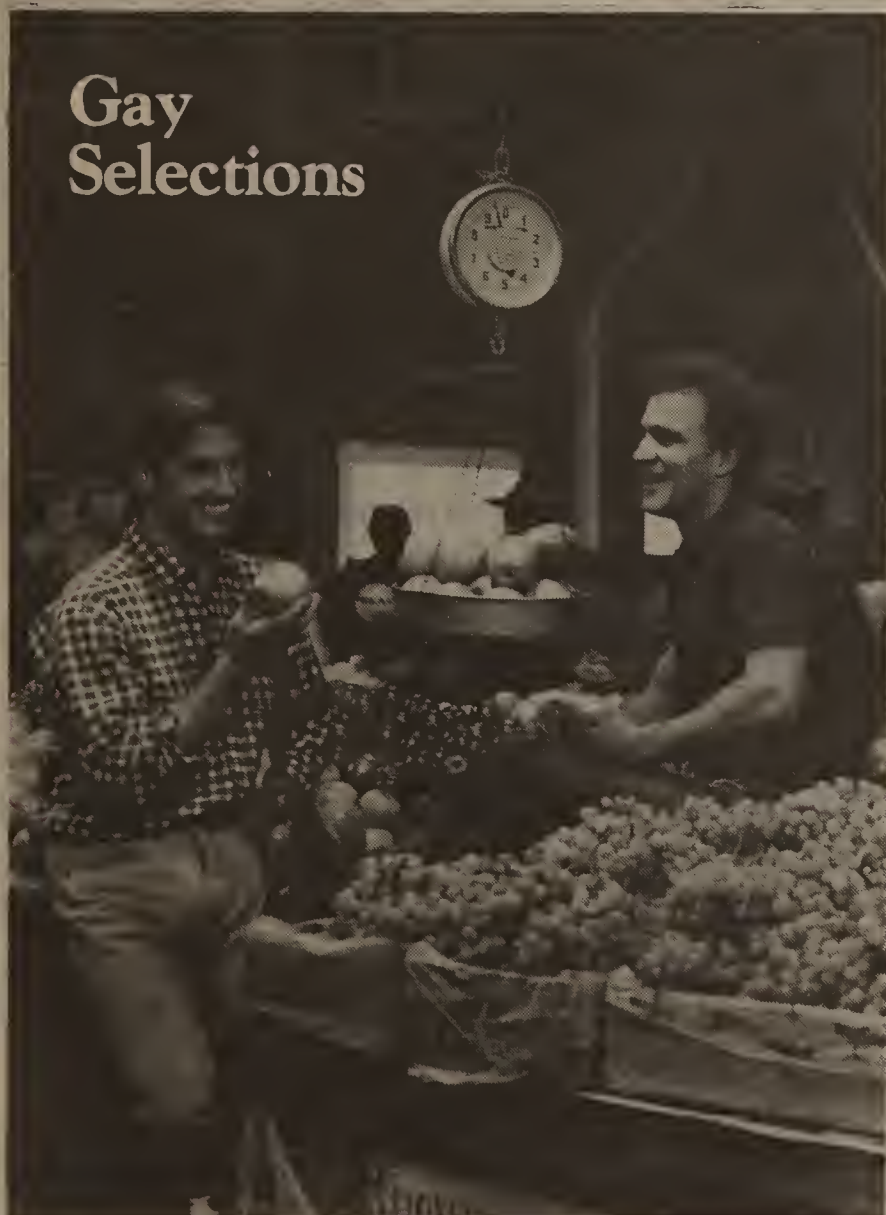
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The Boston Gay Men's Chorus swells with Pride



Strong imagination: Robert Barney, BGMC music director

**Gay Nineties Pride Concert.** Boston Gay Men's Chorus, Robert Barney, director. Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory. June 15 and 16.

By Walta Borawski

When I came out in 1962 there were no gay male choruses, but it would have been nice if there were. If anyone had told me I would someday sit in a formal auditorium and see and hear more than 70 openly gay men in evening suits flirting with each other and us, the audience, I would have given it my best 15-year-old snicker. But of course it would have titillated the imagination.

Robert Barney, the music director of the Boston Gay Men's Chorus, has a very strong imagination; he would have to in order to bring together the Gay Nineties Pride Concert. The program began with Grey Mailloux, president of the chorus, coming onstage and saying that the performance would not be late, but that everyone was backstage working on his hair. And it was probably true, because when the members of the chorus made their entrance, they looked like they were ready for a date. Or something.

The musical portion of the evening began with the full vocal strength of the chorus doing Gilbert and Sullivan's "Entrance and March of the Peers" from *Iolanthe*. The mood quickly shifted from grandeur to pensive with "Words for the Future," three Walt Whitman poems handsomely set by Stuart Raleigh. If you don't get chills hearing over 70 trained male voices singing "And when I thought how my dear friend my lover was on his way coming, O then I was happy," well then, I cannot help you, Sir.

After the weight of the Whitman pieces came a lighter moment, and Boston Gay Men's Chorus is not as comfortable with some of the lighter moments. This one, "Reflections on the Moon," and the splinter group that performed it, was fine until they got to Bart Howard's "Fly Me to the Moon (In Other Words)," which sounded like the Meltones doing Bossa Nova.

The full chorus came back with "Romance Medley," a lovely set including "The Way You Look Tonight," a very sprightly rendition of "It Might as Well be Spring," *Calamity Jane's* "Secret Love," "The Shadow of Your Smile" and Stevie Wonder's "I Just Called to Say I Love You," which sounded awkward as a choral work.

Absurdity with a high degree of precision reigned with "Radway's Ready Relief," a quintessential advertising jingle, written by John Knowles Paine, Harvard's first professor of music. By the time they got to "It's only 25 cents" done in round the trickiness was delightful.

The program grew somber again with one of the most beautiful pieces of the evening, "Song of Songs," texts selected by James Saslow and set by Jeffrey Brody, a local composer who was in the audience to take a bow on Saturday night. The first half of the program ended with a rousing number called "Brothers and Sisters," written by Kirby Shaw. Very consciousness-raising, and apropos for a celebration of Gay Pride.

The second half of the program, "Beautiful Dreamer: A Gay Nineties Fantasy," was a complicated attempt to bring together four gay men of the 1990s with four gay men of the 1890s. This transition in time was brought about by a chorus member as a good fairy with a wand dressed in a pink

gown, with big old fashioned blonde hair — and a hairy chest. The fairy was introduced with Stephen Foster's "Beautiful Dreamer," and who could want a better entrance?

At any rate, one of the gay men from the 1990s was introduced (by the fairy) to his long dead Uncle Percival, "the confirmed bachelor" of another generation. The most poignant moment came when they each explained to the other how their lovers had died, and sang Charles E. Roat's "Pal of My Dreams." "There's something in my time so big horrible that I could not begin to explain it to you, Uncle Percival" was as close as this segment came to the here and now; there was also an attempt to describe the recent yesterday: the Stonewall Riots and the code of colored handkerchiefs.

Numbers in this segment included "A Bicycle Built for Two," and "Down by the Riverside," which was used to explain how the gay men of the 1890s found each other — in bushes by the river.

The high point came for me with Ken Stanton's arrangement of Noel Coward's "We All Wore a Green Carnation" from *Bitter Sweet*. The men of the 1990s meet each other by wearing a green carnation, and there isn't much ambiguity in Coward's lyric: "Blase boys are we,/Exquisitely free/ From the dreary and quite absurd/Moral views of the common herd...Women say we're too/Bored to bill and coo,/We smile wearily,/It's so dearly true!...Faded boys, jaded boys, come what may,/Art is our inspiration/And as we are the reason for the Nineties being gay,/We all wear a green carnation." The "choralography" for this, by George Contini, consisted of the men pairing off and dancing in circular groupings. It was quite effective, and more than anything else brought the two decades together.

The segment included a melodrama, funny and brief, with the villainous landlord Homer La Phobe being hissed, Little Nellie ("She's more than a little Nellie") being worried, and Butch ("I help little Nellie with the rent") being tied down, to much audience approval, by La Phobe. Butch is eventually rescued, with as much audience approval, by Little Nellie. Then there was an audience sing-along to "The Band Played On," "Meet Me in St. Louis" and "The Sidewalks of New York."

The chorus, in glorious voice, gave us three encores, the first and best of which was the sumptuous Mark Riese arrangement of Barry Mann and Dan Hill's "Sometimes When We Touch," a song that is truly bland but for some reason sounds poignant to epidemic-exhausted ears: "I want to hold you 'til I die/'Til we both break down and cry/I want to hold you/'Til the fear in me subsides." Of course, the chorus holding the word *subsides* almost indefinitely helps bring the emotional release.

Overall, the communication between the singers and the (mostly gay male) audience was filled with good spirit and sensual potential. I wish the program had listed the name of the chorus member who played the good fairy, as well as the woman who beautifully interpreted the entire show in sign language. And I wonder how many choral groups that are not in the Gay and

Continued on page 11



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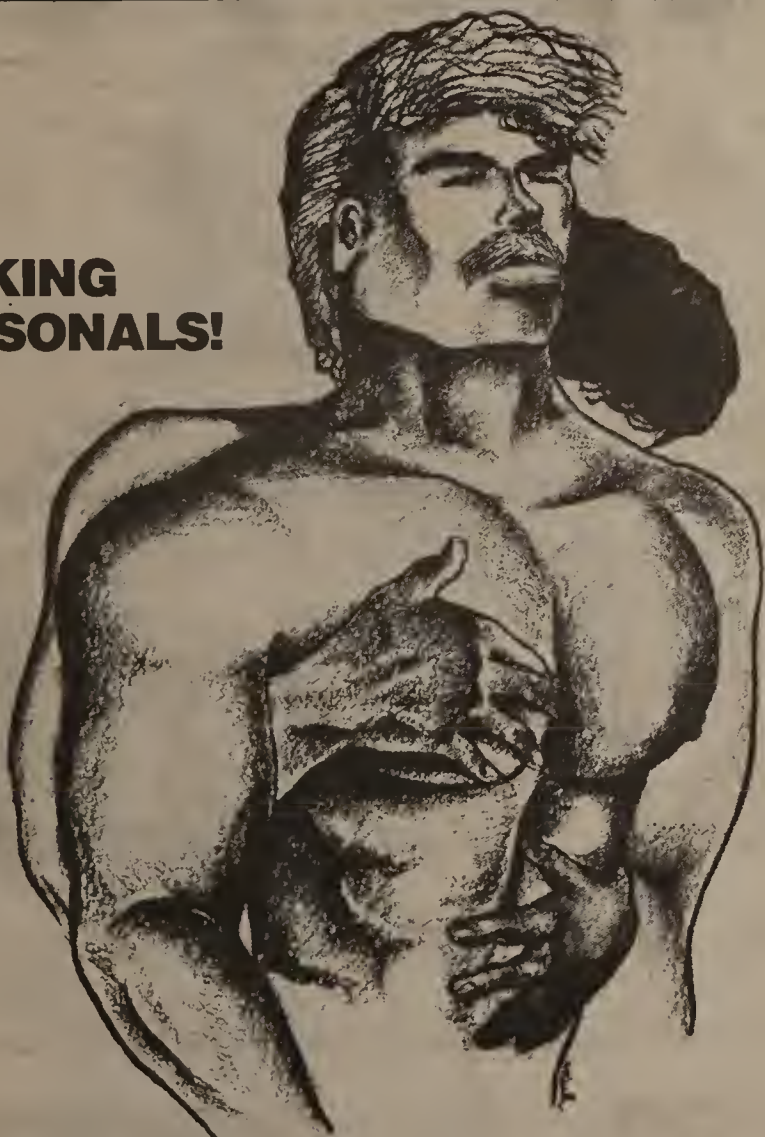


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## Washington

Continued from page 7

wore), a term later applied to the French Revolutionaries. Doubtless he studied closely the soldiers' asses and crotches; the more modest trousers have been with us ever since. Steuben never married and never had any children. At the time of his death in 1794 he was living with a young Columbia University graduate, John W. Mulligan, to whom the old general whispered his dying words, "Don't be alarmed, my son." In his own old age Mulligan became U.S. Consul at Athens.

All of the gay boys in Washington's headquarters loved him and vied for his affections. In his dealings with the boys the commander kept teasing them, leading them on and playing them off each other. His closest ties were with a young Frenchman, Lafayette, whom he called (in Gershwin-style) "the man I love." A teenager when he left France, Lafayette had hazel eyes, red hair and puppydog obedience which won Washington over. After the battle of Monmouth in 1778 the two spent the night, snuggled together under the general's great coat. James Flexner in his four-volume biography of Washington describes the general's relationship to his "kid": "His slight body trembled with temperament as Washington had seen the bodies of highbred chargers do." (II, 213)

In a letter to his commander, Lafayette asked for a locket from Washington and called himself his "sweetheart." After Lafayette had been away on furlough, Washington promised to embrace him "with all the warmth of an affectionate friend when you come to headquarters, where a bed is prepared for you." The boy trapped the British at Yorktown in 1781 and Washington arrived in time to receive the surrender. When the two met on the battlefield, Lafayette kissed Washington from ear to ear several times "with as much ardor as ever an absent lover kissed his mistress on his return." The band played "The World Turned Upside Down."

Washington's boys continued to follow him after the war. Lafayette took the Bastille on July 14, 1789 and sent Washington the key to that prison. Von Steuben tried to get the very gay Prince Henry of Prussia to become king of the United States, while Hamilton and others tried to make Washington himself king. In his new cabinet, Alexander Hamilton became Secretary of the Treasury and Washington's closest advisor.

Washington's love of boys and men means more to the United States than a little gossip. Had he had lots of children (like the Kennedys) he might well have been tempted to become king for his descendants' sake. But he resisted that temptation. And his lack of offspring made it easier for him to free his slaves (after his and Martha's deaths).

The notion that "Washington slept here" now takes on new meaning. □

*One of the elected speakers at Boston's 1990 Gay Pride March, Charley Shively is a member of the Fag Rag collective, a professor at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and author of Drum Beats: Walt Whitman's Civil War Boy Lovers (Gay Sunshine Press, 1989).*

## Chorus

Continued from page 9

Lesbian Association of Choruses, GALA, have an "In Memorium" section in their program listing four names in one season, as does the Boston Gay Men's Chorus. In down moments I am aware that HIV is bigger than any of us; but with the Boston Gay Men's Chorus I am also sure that our spirit and our collective imagination are even bigger than AIDS. □

## AIDS conference

Continued from page 1

breakthrough of the conference was not on the scientific front, but rather "the participation of people with HIV infection and the grassroots participation of groups that represent them." (When asked six months ago what he thought the role of people with HIV/AIDS would be during the conference, Zeigler had replied, "None.")

Other speakers, including Dr. Anthony Fauci, head of the National Institute for Allergies and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), also acknowledged that AIDS activists, in Fauci's words, "do have something impor-



JANA BIRCHUM

tant to say and can contribute to our mission."

Several speakers focussed on the need to end discrimination against people with HIV infection, singling out the INS policy for particular condemnation. "How can we expect individuals to act responsibly," asked Lars Kallings, outgoing head of the International AIDS Society (IAS), "when governments enact discriminatory laws, and even worse, after realizing that the laws are unscientific and useless, through political bigotry do not change them?" Kallings announced that the IAS would not hold future conferences "in countries that restrict entry to HIV-infected travelers," and that it would withdraw its sponsorship of the 1992 Eighth International conference to be held in Boston unless the U.S. changes its policy.

### Activists silence Sullivan

But the speech that grabbed national headlines was the speech no one heard, the ultimate "read my lips" speech, by Secretary of Health and Human Services Louis Sullivan. Sullivan had barely been introduced when 300 activists, led by people of color, began blowing whistles and chanting, "No more words. We want action!" The pandemonium continued for more than 15 minutes, drowning out his entire address.

Sullivan himself made perhaps the most appropriate commentary on the situation when he quoted Martin Luther King: "The measure of a man is not where he stands in times of comfort, but where he stands in controversy." No one present could have found the moment lacking in controversy or irony and it is telling that Sullivan distinguished himself as the only speaker who failed to take a stand on his government's HIV-exclusion policy.

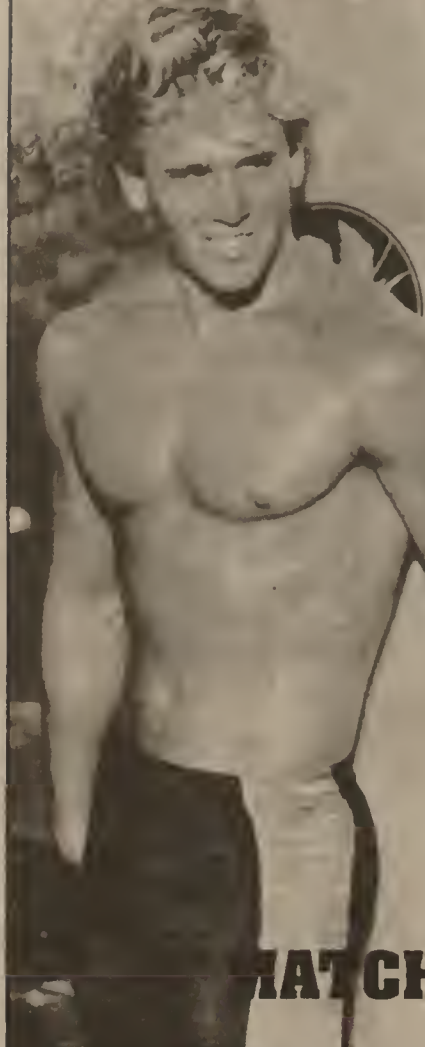
ACT UP received its share of criticism for the disruption. Afterwards some conference organizers complained to the press that ACT UP had destroyed the unity the conference had built between activists and scientists. But it is important to note that ACT UP consciously refrained from disrupting a single scientific session throughout the entire gathering, reserving its wrath for the man who spoke as the sole representative of the U.S. government. (Although it is customary for the head of state of the host country to welcome delegates to International AIDS Conferences, President George Bush chose instead to attend a fundraiser for Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.). And it is equally important to note that, however sympathetic and conciliatory Sullivan's speech may have been, however strong his appeal to compassion and cooperation, U.S. AIDS policy remains a national disgrace.

And if ACT UP was criticized by some, it was embraced by others. After Sullivan finished his speech, the protesters marched out of the conference hall, still chanting and blowing whistles, to join the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade, where they were greeted with overwhelming enthusiasm by the tens of thousands of people who lined Market Street. □

*Look for a report on the scientific and medical aspects of the conference in an upcoming issue of GCN.*



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### LESBIAN CONTRADICTION

A Journal of Irreverent Feminism. Quarterly of commentary, analysis, reviews, cartoons & humor by and for women who agree to disagree—who are still political, but not necessarily correct. Sample \$1.50; sub. \$6; more if/less if. LesCon, 584 Castro, No. 236G, SF, CA 94114. (18.35)



I'm 28 yrs old, and would love to write to a special friend out there. (Can't write other prisoners). I'm funloving, easy to get along with, enjoy camping out, sports, all animals, weight lifting and spending time with a beautiful lady. Please send a photo. Nancy, Elaine LOPEZ, A 915021 (Box 472), PO Box 8540, Pembroke Pines FL 33024.



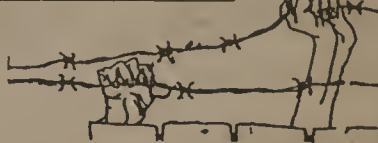
Thank you for the GCN. Please keep it coming. Wishing for a intelligent individual for correspondence and a possible intimate relationship? Dennis G. LOWRY, 852193 MN492, 1150 SW Allapattah Rd, Indiantown FL 34956

Very lonely GM 21. Came to prison at 17. Enjoy beaches, parties, moonlit nights and sex. Taking college courses from Ohio U. Looking for a sincere friendship. Richard WHITE, 103089, Box 500, Olustee FL 32072.

I'm 25, a truly laid back type. I would say I'm sensitive, care about people, maybe sometimes a little too much. I'm trying to make the best of my incarceration, but sometimes you need a little push from a friend. Hopefully thru GCN I can be lucky enough to find him. Mark JOHNSON, 134467 (5-55), 100 Warrior Lane, Bessemer AL 35023.

GM, 22, sincere, athletic, seeking friendship/-relationship. Randall HOLE, 814840, K-41, box 699W, Sneads FL 32460.

GM, 24, attractive gay male, seeking correspondence with others who are willing to write this young hairless body. Can't write others in prison. Robert VINCK, C-96265, Box 1902-B, Tehachapi CA 93581.



I'm a uarn good TATTOO artist (among other things), but tattooing is my vocation. I have a couple of years to do and I'd really like to hear from the outside. Photo would be nice. I'm from Southern Cal. originally. Fred OTTO, 891271, Box 601, Pendleton IN 46064.

I'd like some space in the penpal ads. Maybe I'll find me a rich horny man who will shower me with care. I know I sure need someone who wants to do more than jump up and down on me and leave! Please print this: Hot, Sexy, very effeminate pre-op TS locked away from the caring world. Looking for a friend who's not ashamed to do what they enjoy. Write J. 'Diane' JOHNSON, 174303, Box 1000, Craigsville VA 24430.

GM, 6'4", 210, seeks correspondence from anyone. 21 yrs. CAN write other prisoners. Robert SPIKER, 468920, FE-F-2-10, Rt 2 Box 20, Midway TX 75852.

I am confined to isolation ('Protective Custody') and would like to be able to write other people who are either gay, transvestite or transsexual. I hope with all my heart that I will find a friend to talk to. Daniel MEDBERRY, 598329 (20-102), Box 221, Raiford FL 32083

Got dem ol kozmic blues and ol man loneliness is doggin me down. Won't someone shade me from bein buried alive in these blues? Dig '60s San Fran music (Janis, Airplane, Dead) to jazz. Shannon MILLER, C-55632, PO Box 2000 (L-329), Vacaville CA 95696.

My name is 'Paula' and I very much need to start to correspond with some real people, my own type, who understand me and whom I can understand. I'm a lonesome cross dresser, desiring friendship from the outside world. Paul PRILLAMAN, 109627 (20-150), Box 221, Raiford FL 32083.

I'd like to become penpals with a gay man or lesbian. I'm 24, a Gemini, 157 lbs soaking wet, and love all kinds of music and some sports. Kenneth MERCHANT, 467600, Rt 2 Box 4400, Gatesville TX 76525.

I'm 28, Black, a true Cancer in every way. I enjoy meeting and becoming friends. A picture would be nice if possible. Larry WILLIAMS, 80973-011, Box 7, San Pedro CA 90731.

19 yr old GM seeks long lasting relationship with Black GM. Other penpals for friendship welcome to write. I'm blonde/blue, don't play games, and not able to write other prisoners. Mark DIEDRICK, Box B, Anamosa IA 52205.



# Calendar

**11 Monday** ☐ **BAGLY Presents a Hollywood Party.** Come dressed as a Hollywood star. Prizes awarded for best look-alikes. Also featuring D.J. Lather with videos and dancing. At Obsessions. 132 Portland St. 9pm-2am. Must be 18or older. For more info 523-4725. (Pictured right: Katharine Hepburn and Dennie Moore in "Sylvia Scarlett" 1936)



Calendar listings must be received by the Monday before the week of the event. Photos encouraged. Please specify if event is/is not wheelchair accessible and/or sign language interpreted. Please use our format as a guide for listings and put each event on a separate sheet. All listings must be typed. Please note that listings are printed as space allows. We regret that we cannot print every submission. No phone calls, please!

## 30 Saturday

**Providence** ☐ **R.I. Lesbian and Gay Pride March.** R.I. State House. 11:30am.

**Boston** ☐ **Clean and Sober Dance.** Sponsored by The Boston Sound Machine. The Y. 140 Clarendon St. 9pm-1am. \$\$\$. For more info 846-9061.

**Jamaica Plain** ☐ **"Throwing Our Weight Around."** Benifit screening for locally produced video about fat women, our culture's views of fat, beauty, and health. Crone's Harvest. 61 Centre St. 7:30pm. \$\$-\$10 (more if/less if).

**Boston** ☐ **The Dance.** For all affected by HIV. Boston Living Center. 140 Clarendon St. 9pm-1am. For more info 236-1012.

**Boston** ☐ **Names Project/Boston.** Benefit showing of "Common Threads." John Hancock Hall. 180 Berkeley St. 8pm. Donation accepted.

## 1 July Sunday

**Somerville** ☐ **GLOSS: Gays and Lesbians of Somerville and Surroundings.** Potluck picnic. Powderhouse Park. 4pm. For info 628-2532. Raindate: July 8.

## 5 Thursday

**Cambridge** ☐ **Women's Community Cancer Project.** All interested women please attend to develop support and services. The Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. For info 489-3806.

## 6 Friday

**Brookline** ☐ **Am Tikva, Boston's Community of Gay and Lesbians Jews.** Monthly Shabbat service. Workmen's Circle. 1762 Beacon St. 8pm. For more info 782-8894.

**Boston** ☐ **GCN Mailing.** Come help stuff the paper and meet new friends. 5-10pm. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington and Back Bay T-stops. Info: **GCN**, 617/426-4469.

**Boston** ☐ **"Behind the Mask" Author Dave Pallone.** To appear at Glad Day Books. 673 Boylston St. 4-6pm. For info 267-3010.

## 7 Saturday

**Provincetown** ☐ **The NAMES Project/Boston.** 7/7 and 7/8 Quilting bee and showing of panels from Int'l AIDS Memorial Quilt. Provincetown Town Hall. For info (617) 451-9003.

**Boston** ☐ **"Dancing Against the Darkness" Author Steven Petrow** . Booksigning. Glad Day Books. 673 Boylston St. 3-5pm. For more info 267-3010.

**Jamaica Plain** ☐ **13th Annual Wake Up the Earth Festival.** Crafts, exotic foods, live music all day. Stonybrook Village Greens. Lamartine St. 12-5pm. For more info 524-3816.

**Jamaica Plain** ☐ **"Who Wears the Tux?" Author Julia Willis** Reading, booksigning. Crone's Harvest. 761 Centre St. 3-5pm. For more info 983-9530.

## 8 Sunday

**Jamaica Plain** ☐ **Lesbian and Gay Neighbors of J.P..** Barbecue potluck. Anson St. 4:30pm. For more info 524-8070.

## 9 Sunday

**Boston** ☐ **Boston Living Center.** General meeting. YWCA. 140 Clarendon St. 7:30pm. For more info 236-1012.

**Brookline** ☐ **Swing and Ballroom Dance Classes.** 5-week mini session. For more info 522 1444.

## 11 Monday

**Boston** ☐ **BAGLY presents A Hollywood Party.** Prizes for best look-alike. Obsessions. 132 Portland St. 9pm-2am. \$3. 18 and over. For more info 523-4725.

**Somerville** ☐ **Somerville Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Rights Activists.** New group forming. 7pm. For location and info 628-2532.

## 12 Tuesday

**Boston** ☐ **The NAMES Project/Boston.** Quilting bee, sewing supplies provided. Arlington St. Church. 6-9pm. For more info 451-9003.

**Cambridge** ☐ **Feminist Cancer Support Group.** All interested women please attend to develop support and services. The Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. For info 489-3806.

## 13 Wednesday

**Medford** ☐ **Lesbian Lawyers and Legal Workers.** Meeting. 7pm. For more info. 483-3685 or 522-7661.

## WEEKLY EVENTS

### Saturday

**Boston** ☐ **Gay Boston,** with Jim Voltz. Boston Neighborhood Network, channels A3 and A8. 7:30-8pm.

**Boston** ☐ **Lesbian Fun and Games.** Smoke and alcohol free. At The Center. 338 Newbury St. 7-10pm \$2 donation. The third Saturday of the month.

**Cambridge** ☐ **Single Mother's Support Group.** Free drop-in group with child care and snacks on alternate Sat. At Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 11am-12:30pm. For info 354-8807.

### Sunday

**Cambridge** ☐ **Lesbian Soccer Team.** Seeks new experienced players. For practice/game schedule 661-6771.

**Boston** ☐ **The Gay Dating Show.** WUNR 1600 AM. 10:30pm-2:30am. Lesbians and Gay Men.

**Boston** ☐ **ALATEEN Group** open to lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth, 22 and under. 338 Newbury Street, rm. 202k. 6pm-7:30pm. Dave, 629-2518 or Frank, 666-8912.

**Somerville** ☐ **GLOSS: Gays and Lesbians of Somerville and Surroundings.** Monthly potluck. 71 Union Sq. 6pm. First Sunday of each month. For more info Lisa 628-2532.

**Beverly** ☐ **North Shore Lesbian/Gay Parenting Support Group.** Meets 1st Sun. of each month. At First Parish Unitarian Church. 225 Cabot St. 6:30-8pm. For info 593-5252.

### Monday

**Boston** ☐ **Monday Night Rap Group.** Talk to others living with HIV. 38 Appleton St. 7:30-9pm. For info 694-0964.

**Boston** ☐ **Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights** holds bi-weekly planning meeting. The Center, 338 Newbury Street. 7pm. 776-6956.

**Worcester** ☐ **AIDS Project Worcester.** A support group for family, friends, concerned others dealing with HIV. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7-8:30pm. For info (508)755-3773.

**Cambridge** ☐ **Lesbian Rap Group.** The Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 8-10pm. For info 354-8807.

### Tuesday

**Boston** ☐ **Lambada and Brazilian Dance Class.** Tuesdays and Thursdays. 128 A Tremont St. 4th fl. 6pm. For more info 576-1018.

**Boston** ☐ **Gay Fathers of Greater Boston** meet 1st and 3rd Tues. of the month. 7/3 Youth Panel: Kids of Gay Fathers" at Lindemann Ctr., 2nd fl. 8-10pm. 742-7897.

**Boston** ☐ **Gay and Lesbian Support Group for Adult Children of Alcoholics.** Faulkner Hospital. 8:30-10pm. Intake interview required. 522-5800 x1908.

**Boston** ☐ **Lesbian and Gay Freedom Trail Band Rehearsals.** No audition necessary. At Mass College of Art. Longwood and Brookline Ave. 7:15pm. For info 266-0628.

**Providence, RI** ☐ **ACT UP/Rhode Island.** Call for meeting place (401) 461-4191.

**Boston** ☐ **ACT UP/Boston** meets to confront the AIDS crisis. The Living Center, YWCA, 140 Clarendon St. 7pm. 49-ACT UP.

**Cambridge** ☐ **30-plus Lesbian Rap.** Topics: 7/3 Interfaith Couples, 7/10 Mixed Messages. The Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 7-8:30. For info 354-8807.

**Cambridge** ☐ **Bisexual Women's Rap.** Topics: 7/3 Orgasm vs. Intimacy. The Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 7:30-9:30pm. For info 354-8807.

**Cambridge** ☐ **Women For Sobriety,** a self help group for women recovering from addictions. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-9:30pm. 354-8807.

**Arlington** ☐ **Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays** meets on the second Tuesday of every month at First Parish Unitarian Church, 630 Mass. Ave. 7:15pm. Info: 547-2440 or 508/562-5807.

**Boston** ☐ **Boston Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays.** 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. Harriet Tubman House. 6:30pm. For info 825-2610.

**Medford** ☐ **We the People with feminist Sheila Parks.** Radio show on WMFO 91.5. 7-9am. Tufts University radio.

**Worcester** ☐ **Support Group for HIV-positive Gay/Bisexual Men and Their Significant Others.** Closed meeting. At AIDS Project Worcester. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7-8:30pm. For info (508) 755-3773.

**Framingham, MA** ☐ **Framingham Gay and Lesbian Youth Group.** Open to youth age 22 and under. Meets 1st and 3rd Tues. of each month. At Civic League Building. 214 Concord St. 6-7:30pm.

**Cambridge** ☐ **Sexual Harrassment at Work Support Group.** This group will meet for about 7 weeks beginning 6/5. At Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 6:30. For info 354-8807.

### Wednesday

**Boston** ☐ **Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth.** Open to youth age 22 and under. At 35 Bowdoin St. New persons' meeting 6pm; women and men meet separately 6:45-7:30; general meeting at 7:30pm. 523-7363 or 1-800-42BAGLY.

**Worcester** ☐ **Supporters of Worcester Area Gay and Lesbian Youth.** Open to gay and bisexual youth 21 and under. Meets 1st and third Wednesday of month at United Congregational Church. 6 Institute Rd. 7pm. For info (508) 755-0005.

**Worcester** ☐ **Support Group for HIV-positives who are in Substance Abuse Recovery.** Closed meeting. At AIDS Project Worcester. 305 Shrewsbury St. 7:30-9pm. For info (508) 755-3773.

**Cambridge** ☐ **Say it, Sister!.** News Radio Show on WMBR, 88.1 FM. 7-8pm.

**Cambridge** ☐ **Lesbian Al-Anon** with child care, wheelchair accessible. At Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 6:30-8pm. For info 354-8807.

### Thursday

**Boston** ☐ **Progressive Caucus of the Campaign to Defend the Lesbian and Gay Rights Bill.** Meetings. City Hall, rm 957. 7:30pm.

**Boston** ☐ **The Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights.** Meets alternating Thursdays. At The Center, rm 202K. 338 Newbury St. 6:30-8pm. For info 828-3039.

**Northampton** ☐ **Valley Gay Alliance** meets 1st, 3rd Th. every month, basement of the Unitarian Church, 22 Main St. 7:30pm. (413) 527-5310.

**Stoneham** ☐ **Incest Survivors Group** for women. New England Memorial Hospital. 5 Woodland Rd. 5-6:30pm. Sara Epstein, 979-7025.

**Boston** ☐ **Boston Area Rape Crisis Center** drop-in group for women who have been raped. 492-RAPE.

**Cambridge** ☐ **Incest Survivors Group.** Women's Center. 46 Pleasant St. 7:30-9:30pm.

**Cambridge** ☐ **Non-offending Male Sexual Abuse Survivors.** Group meets 1st Thursday of every month. Cambridge Ctr. of Commerce conference room, 859 Mass. Ave. 8:30-10pm. \$5 donation. 498-9881.

**Boston** ☐ **GLAAD: Boston Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.** General meetings 2nd Thursday of the month. The Center, rm 202. 338 Newbury St. For info 492-4639.

**Dorchester** ☐ **Gay and Lesbian Concerns Committee of SEIU Local 509.** Meets 2nd Thurs. of each month. At Union Office. 5 Howard Johnson Plaza. 6:30pm. For info 282-2509.

### Friday

**Boston** ☐ **Women in Black.** Demonstrate outside Israeli Consulate in support of the Palestinian right to statehood. Statler Bldg. Near Arlington St. Station. 1st Friday of every month. 12:30-1:30pm. For info 723-6327.

**Watertown** ☐ **GLOW: Gays and Lesbians of Watertown** For more info 395-4664.

**Brookline** ☐ **"Swingtime."** Lesbian, gay bisexual swing dance lessons. First Friday of the month. 185 Corey Rd. 8:30-9:15. \$4. For info 661-1792.

**Boston** ☐ **Classic Films On Super 8 Film.** At The Boston Living Center. 140 Clarendon St. free. For info 236-1012.



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